THE

WEEKLY ENTERTAINER.

For MONDAY, December 14, 1807.

THE LETTER-BOX.

No. 14.

To the Editor,

I Have a particular friend, Sir, with whom, in the course of conversation, many disputes have arisen respecting the *present* and the *past!* Assuming one of my most grave and wise looks, I frequently exclaim, "Heavens! what a world we live in! Depravity daily increases; and unless some very material reformation takes place, we shall soon suffer the fate of Sodom and Gomorrah." "Nonsense, nonsense!" replies my friend, "the times are not a jot worse than they were a hundred or a thousand years ago. The passions were as forcible then as they are now, and man's prudence equally incapable of subduing them. Was not Jacob a deceiver? Did not Lot defile his own daughters? And with respect to David, what excuse can be made for *his* conduct towards the unfortunate Uriah?" These (you will say) are invincible arguments. Truly, Sir, I have found them so; and shall therefore be silent, in respect to *virtue* and *vice*. But surely every person, in their sober senses, will immediately allow that there is a vast alteration in *some* things, as the following anecdotes will clearly elucidate. It is unnecessary to enter into a detail of our present circumstances, either national or individual; as the man that is ignorant of them must be destitute of common sense, and, consequently, ill adapted to judge of the propriety or impropriety of my remarks. I shall first give you a true account of a feast, made by George Nevil, chancellor of England, and archbishop of York, in the reign of Edward IV. 1470, taken out of Fuller's

Ch. Hist. page 193. At which feast were most of the bishops, and many of the nobility and gentry.

Earl of Warwick, steward. Earl of Bedford, treasurer.
Lord Hastings, comptroller.
And many more noble officers.
Servitors 1000; cooks 62; kitcheners 515.

300	Quarters of wheat.	4000	Pigeons.
330	Tuns of ale.	4000	Rabbits.
104	Tuns of wine.	204	Bittours.
1	Pipe of ipocras.	400	Hernshaws.
80	Fat oxen.	200	Pheasants.
6	Wild bulls.	500	Partridges.
1004	Sheep.	400	Woodcocks.
300	Calves.	100	Curlews.
300	Porkers.	1000	Egrets.
3000	Geese.	500	Stags, bucks, and roes.
3000	Capons.	400	Venison pasties cold.
300	Pigs.	600	Pikes and breams.
400	Plovers.	1000	Dishes of jelly parted.
100	Quails.	4000	Dishes of jelly plain.
200	Fowls, called rees.	400	Tarts cold.
100	Peacocks.	4000	Custards cold.
4000	Mallards and teals.	1506	Venison pasties hot.
200	Cranes.	2000	Custards hot.
200	Kids.	12	Porpusses and seals.
2000	Chickens.		

Besides abundance of sweetmeats.

Thus, Sir, upwards of twenty thousand victims were heaped upon the altar of Epicurus! As a farther confirmation of the truth of my assertion, I shall subscribe the copy of an order made in the reign of Henry VIII. for the breakfast, dinner, and supper of Lady Lucy, one of the maids of honour, or ladies of the bedchamber of that court. It is preserved among the records of Westminster, and the signet is in Henry's hand.

"HENRY THE EIGHTH, &c. &c.

"We wol and commaunde you to allow dailly from hensforth unto our right dere and well beloved the Lady Lucye, into her chambre the dyat and fare hereafter ensuing. First, everye mornynge at breakfaste oon chyne of beyffe, at our kechyn, oon chete loff, and oon manchett at our panatrye bar, and a galone of ale at our buttrye barr. Item, at dyner, a pese of beef, a stroke of roste, and a reward at our said kycheyn, a caste of chete bread at our panatrye, and a galone of ale at our buttrye. Item at after supper a chete loof, and a manchette at our pantry barr, a galone of ale at our buttrye bar, and

and half a galone of wine at our cellar barr. Item, every morning at our woode yard four tall shyds and two faggots. Item, at our chaundrye barr in winter every night, oon preket and four fyses of wax, with eight candles, white lights, and oon torche. Item, at our pincher house wokely six white cups. Item, at every time of our removing, oone hoole cart for the carriage of her stuff. And these our lettres shall be your sufficiente warrantt and discharge, in this behalfe at all tymes hereafter.

"Given under our signet at our manour of Esthamsteda the xvi. day of July, the xiiij.th yere of our reigne.

"To the lord steward of our household, the treasurer, comptroller, cofferer, clerks of greene cloath, clerks of our kechyn, and to all our hed officers of our said household, and to every of them."

In order to pursue this very *savoury* subject still farther, I shall endeavour to whet your appetite, by giving you the origin of eating goose on Michaelmas-day.

Queen Elizabeth, on her way to Tilbury-fort, on the 29th of September, 1588, dined at the ancient seat of Sir Neville Umfreville, near that place; and as British Bess would much rather dine off a high-seasoned and substantial dish, than a flimsy fricasee or rascally ragout, the knight thought proper to provide a brace of fine geese to suit the palate of his royal guest. After the queen had dined very heartily, she asked for a half pint bumper of burgundy, and drank destruction to the Spanish armada. She had but that moment returned the glass to the knight, who had done the honours of the table, but the news came (as if the queen had been possessed of the spirit of prophecy) that the Spanish fleet had been destroyed by a storm. She immediately took another bumper in order to digest the geese and good news, and was so much pleased with the event that she every year after, on that day, had the above excellent dish served up; the court made it a fashion, and the people have followed the custom ever since.

I shall conclude by asking a question, which I could wish to see answered by yourself, or some of your correspondents. Whence originates the vulgar saying, that "Brandy is Latin for goose?"

Pray tell me, Sir, and oblige

Your's, very faithfully,

X.

INDIAN SUPERSTITION.

THE Indians firmly believe in witchcraft. An Indian of the Senika tribe, called Big Ben, unfortunately lost his

wife and soon after his daughter; another Indian at the distance of at least two hundred miles boasted he had destroyed them by witchcraft. Ben heard and believed it; he quitted his home, and on Judge Huntingdon's estate met and killed the boaster. Ben was advised to fly, or otherwise he would, as being within the States' line, be apprehended and hanged: in a voice of thunder he exclaimed, "If it be the fashion of Long Knife* to kill an Indian for destroying the murderer of his wife and child, Ben will submit to his fate; but if Ben regain his camp, not all the white men, nor all the Indians, shall compel Ben to surrender. Six white men were fixed upon to seize Ben; they saw him lying upon the ground, calmly smoaking; his tomahawk, with his hand so placed as to be able instantly to use it; and by his side lay his loaded rifle ready cocked; his pursuers did not dare to attack him, and Ben is yet alive. Previous to this murder, a deadly hatred existed between his brother and himself; but as soon as the former heard of it, he praised the heroism which dictated the murder. Not content, he sought for Ben, gave him his right hand, and declared that he had often shot at the deceased, but he had ever been guarded by chets (evil genii) from the effects of his rifle.

* So the Indians call the inhabitants of the United States.

Particulars of the Liberation of Mrs. Spencer Smith from the French Police, and of her subsequent Flight through Italy, the Tyrol, Styria, Bohemia, Gallicia, Poland, and Livonia.

(Continued from Page 974.)

THE marquis proceeds to state, that disguised as a Brescian postillion, he took a rope-ladder under his cloak, and went to the inn where Mrs. Smith was confined, and after waiting three hours under her window, she perceived him, fixed the ladder, and descended. From that moment they began their flight, and reached Salò the same morning, when they embarked in a gondolier, and gained the Tyrolean frontiers.

Towards the evening, continues the marquis, we met a waggon, on which there were several French cuirassiers; but as they were ignorant of our case, they only laughed at our mean equipage. We crossed the Tyrolean mountains with our usual celerity, without stopping either night or day; nor did we allow ourselves that repose which our fatigue urgently called for.

The people of the Tyrol are of an uncouth and stubborn cast of mind: they possess so small a share of humanity or hospitality,

tality, that, exclusive of our fears arising from a knowledge of their dependence on Bavaria, and their connections with the French, we were desirous of quitting their country, and not to expose ourselves long to their ill-treatment and extortion. As we approached the extremity of the Tyrol, we were accosted in a wood about noon by a man dressed in a soldier's uniform, who, drawing his sword, desired us in a threatening tone to lend him some money. My situation was such, that I could not possibly perceive what went on, nor abandon the horse, but Mrs. Smith snatched the loaded pistols that we had with us, and answered his menace by presenting one of them at him. This made the fellow step back instantly, and renounce his plan of robbing; leaving us to proceed towards the Saltzburghese territory.

We judged it prudent to keep the circumstance of our flight a profound secret, as we could not flatter ourselves with the hope that the passport would ensure us a free passage through Saltzburg, it having become utterly useless, for it was confirmed by no signature at any place in Italy or the Tyrol. Our intention was to go to Gratz, where Mrs. Smith's children and sister (Madame Strassoldo) were, and the only way to be attempted was by the Saltzburghese hills, asking the road to Stiria as we went. We determined at random on crossing the mountain of Bertoscac, though we knew nothing of the direction to be taken; but the country people pointed this out to us, and I managed the reins of our wearied animal accordingly.

The same day we arrived at Waispack, situated at the foot of this mountain, and containing a church and an inn. This village, standing at a distance from the highway and from any city, is surrounded by hills, in which silence and solitude reign, interrupted only by the streams that rush down the sides of the mountain in their rugged channels. We were invited here, for the first time, to repose ourselves, free from our late cruel solicitude: we were no longer oppressed by a fear of treachery at the hands of those whom we met, or a dread of being arrested by whoever approached us. At Waispack we staid a whole day, and the next we intended to reach the summit of the mountain; but Mrs. Smith's strength was not equal to such a walk: the people however directed us another road, along the river, leading to Zell, whence we were to proceed to Stiria, through a most delightful country.

No landscape better deserves to be described in the liveliest colours of language, than the enchanting scenes which are so richly lavished, by the hand of nature, along the banks of the lake of Zell. Were I endowed with the transcendant genius of Horace, or of Virgil, what a truly fascinating sketch would I not produce of a country less dreary than the mountains of

Berne

Berne or Zuric, but replete with all that beautiful contrast, so peculiar to many of the most romantic parts of Switzerland! The eye is pleased with a multitude of cottages, the simple inhabitants of which are agreeably united, and pursue their agricultural labours. Further up among the hills, small houses are interspersed every where; and from time to time the welcome inn is found, which affords better fare than that of the large villages in the Tyrol.

These people have been attentive to the place of their religious exercise: the church is splendid, and well officiated; and for this purpose they deprive themselves of a certain superfluity of domestic comforts. The inhabitants of the environs of this lake are robust, and well made; yet through the most of the Saltzburghese territory one is disagreeably struck with the sight of a race of beings who exhibit an extraordinary chain of the modifications of nature, almost from the monkey to the man. I looked with compassion at a number of deformed wretches, whose configuration was so little human, that every movement was accompanied by perpetual contortion. What objects of pity are those miserable creatures who, though members of society, hardly possess the faculty of vegetating, being actually deficient in animal organization! Even their expression is unconnected with articulate sounds, and they are unable either to answer or to comprehend whatever is said to them. Such are seen trailing themselves from place to place in the vicinity of Saltzburgh.

Obliged as we were to advance through mountainous defiles, destitute of a path to follow, we found it necessary to walk through many a wild passage; we often joined the country folks on their way homewards, as the day began to close, and I led by the bridle our horse with our battered vehicle. I now felt that our late vicissitudes realized the ideal adventures of romance:—shut out from the vortex of society, and buried in the solitude of such a country, after suffering from the intense heat of the sun, we rested ourselves, as evening approached, on the borders of some stream, or took shelter beneath the humble roof of a cottage; considering ourselves no longer bound to accelerate our steps, how often did we sit in the shade of some pine, listening to the nightingale's notes! Harassed no more by the dread of seizure, our minds rambled in an investigation of the works of nature.

A Tyrolese lady, though neither rank nor fortune could justify her passion, loved a youth of the condition of a merchant, and the obstacles to the accomplishment of her desires caused her to elope with him. His flight became a matter of public concern; and all the guards at the confines, as well as the police, were cautioned for the detention of the parties. The vigilance intended for them soon fell upon us, and when we

reached

reached the frontiers, we were prevented from passing them the people there supposing us to be the fugitives in question. We discovered the motive of this impediment, and found that it would render our journey by the way of Carinthian Stiria quite impracticable, as also by the other frontier.

This adventure seemed almost to have something theatrical in it, as in many dramatic plots similar incidents form the basis of intrigues and interesting scenes. We at first merely smiled at the curiosity of the people; but as we were obliged to return to places we had already passed, we began to be seriously displeased. At every step fortune seemed to rejoice in oppressing us; my tranquillity fled before unhappy presentiments; and an idea of additional disasters obscured the brighter prospect which had begun to dawn. Nothing now appeared agreeable to our eyes; no object afforded us delight; and the same hills, rivers, and valleys that before had enlivened our imagination, were become sources of melancholy, and even of disgust.

The affair of the fugitives made us apprehend that we should be arrested in any of the adjacent countries to which we might return. From the time of our quitting Rastadt we were unable to devise measures either decisive or accurate. We hoped to be able to ascend the steep mountain called the Tauro; and we set out for this purpose; but being obliged to traverse the precipices on foot, without being able to avoid the frontiers of Carinthian Stiria (on the other side of the mountain), we judged it prudent to return to Rastadt, after having fatigued ourselves for several hours. We had now again to contrive the means of escaping even from a country which we could not call inimical; but it seemed as if captivity hovered round us wherever we went, danger faced us at every avenue, and liberty fled from us as we hastened to overtake it; we were doomed to struggle against our adverse fate, and elude the vigilant police of every country; not only constrained to avoid cities, but to fly from the confines of kingdoms.

They did, however, succeed in escaping from dangers which seem more like the fanciful scenes of a novel than reality, and got to Vienna and thence to Prague. I was prevented, says the marquis, from making those observations on Moravia and Bohemia which I wished, previous to my arrival at Prague. The lands in general appeared fertile, and the country throughout extremely uneven. In every village and town, images of saints and the virgin ornamented the squares or public places, and the people of Germany appeared to me so very superstitious, that I imagined they would fight better for the conquest of Jerusalem than for the protection of their country. The women in those provinces were employed in the fields more than the

men, the exertions of the latter seldom extending beyond horse-driving, or wielding the musket.

Bohemia seemed richer than any other part of the emperor's dominions; but the character of its inhabitants is rough and uncivil. Their language, a corrupted Illiric, prevents the passenger from gaining information, and besides this, their extreme avarice renders them unsocial. I was struck with the difference of temper between the youth at the age of twelve or fourteen years, and that of the man of twenty-four: the first were lively and quick, but the other looked stupid, lazy, and as if the faculties of the mind sunk under the increasing vigour of the body. This I attributed in some degree to the great consumption of spirituous liquors and animal food, which at that age prevails in Bohemia. I have seen some of the people eat abundantly five times in a day. The Bohemians are brave and loyal subjects, qualities particularly commendable in the inhabitants of the frontiers of any state.

(To be continued.)

FASHIONS *for* DECEMBER, 1807.

Extracted from the Fifteenth Number of Le Beau Monde; or, Literary and Fashionable Magazine, for December.

LADIES DRESSES.

No. 2.

A Round dress of soft white satin, enriched round the bottom with a border of gold foil; the back and front of the dress is made square and low, with a broad laced tucker across the bosom and back, leaving the shoulder straps quite plain; the sleeves are made full on the shoulder, and continue to the wrist, trimmed round the hand with a narrow lace to correspond with the bosom of the dress; the sleeves are separated round the thick part of the arm above the elbow, with a rich band of gold foil; the body and skirt are also gathered into a band of the same round the waist; the Wyndham cap, formed alternately into waves of white satin and lace, finished round the front with a superb vandyke lace; a small robe band of satin round the crown, with a full bunch of white satin roses, intermixed with leaves of white satin in front, inclining to the left side of the head; the hair is combed in loose waves, and worn back off the right side above the eye-brows, and parted in the centre of the forehead; bracelets of white cornelian, gloves and shoes of white kid.

No. 3.

A demi-robe of white Albany gauze over a soft white figured satin train petticoat; the dress is made complete in one; wraps straight over the bosom to the left side, and is gradually sloped off round the train; a loose robing of rich white lace, fastened in the centre of the back, and is drawn down to the extremity of the waist, with a pearl clasp; the lace continues to cross the back, and is confined on the top of the left shoulder with a rosette of lace; the dress is trimmed all round with a deep Brussels lace; a full puff sleeve at the top of the shoulder, with two rows of lace gathered full round the arm, one above the other, to correspond with the dress; the hair in a plain band on the left side of the forehead, with a few loose waves on the other; two large cork-screw curls, falling from the front of the right side of the head towards the shoulder; with coronet combs of pearls to secure the hair behind in separate forms. A rich Barcelona scarf, trimmed with a narrow border of gold all round, hanging negligently over the arm; necklace and ear-rings of cornelian; French kid gloves, and yellow satin shoes.

GENTLEMEN'S DRESSES.

No. 1.

Evening dress is invariably black. The coats have constantly collars of the same cloth, and covered buttons; black kerseymere waistcoat and breeches are considered genteel; black silk are necessary in dress parties.

In morning dresses we have observed a greater proportion of scarlet waistcoats than their long extinction would have allowed us to expect, and we are inclined to think they are likely to be again introduced; blue coats are still much worn; and scarlet waistcoats are frequently worn as a sort of half-dress along with blue coats, as also with the darkish browns; for morning dress there is also a new article in the waistcoat fashion, which is a sort of silky shag; is well adapted to the season, and has a good appearance in riding dress, but we think does not seem perfectly in character, unless accompanied with brown top boots, and a riding whip.

London and Parisian Fashions for November, 1807.

As described and represented by Prints in La Belle Assemblee; or, Bell's Court and Fashionable Magazine.

No. 1.

AN EVENING DRESS.

A simple round gown of white satin, or coloured cloth; triangular front, finished with silver beading. Plain back,

brought to a point at the bottom of the waist, which is increased in length. A full short sleeve, with slashed ornaments in the Spanish style; the slashes wrought in an elegant pattern of silver embroidery, and severally finished with a small correspondent tassel. The hair bound tight round the head in the Grecian style, twisted in braids behind, the ends formed in a tuft of full curls, and confined with a gold comb, from whence are seen pendant ringlets, similar to those which fall on the left shoulder; in front it is divided over the left temple with the Diana crescent, of pink topaz, above which are a few dishevelled curls. Necklace and ear-rings of pink topaz, bracelets of linked pearl, with correspondent studs. A Circassian scarf of orange, or crimson, figured or plain, with rich border and fringe at the ends, of colours tastefully varied. This shawl is thrown carelessly round the throat, or across the shoulders, or is formed in a negligent and graceful drapery, by the disposition of the hands. Turkish slippers of white satin; and white kid gloves rucked.

No. 2.

MORNING WALKING DRESS.

A high military vest of French cambric, lawn, or muslin, buttoned down the front; and formed with the chemisette waist, and high collar. Circassian robe-pelisse, of pale olive, dove, puce, or purple, formed of napped velvet, twill sarsnet, kerseymere, or Georgian cloth, bordered with a rich shaded brocade ribband, embroidery in coloured silks, or trimmings of fancy fur. A beaver hat of the same colour as the coat, turned up on the left side, with cockade and band *a-la-militaire*, and ornamented with a crimped willow feather. Hair cropped; coral ear-rings; York tan gloves; and slippers of red Morocco.

No. 3.

A frock dress of plain cambric, or India muslin; with short bishop's sleeve, round bosom, and drawn back. A plain drawn tucker of Paris net; the frock trimmed down the sides with the same, or gathered muslin. A French pelerine, of fluted velvet, or plaited lawn, with high ruff; the tippet crossing the bosom in front, is tied in a bow at the bottom of the waist behind. A poke bonnet of basket willow, or striped velvet, with full bows, and long ends of shaded orange ribband on one side. York tan gloves above the elbow. Turkish slippers of red Morocco.

No. 4.

A Zealand wrap, of crimson Georgian cloth, the bosom and cuffs composed of fluted velvet the same colour. A mountain bonnet

bonnet trimmed to correspond, and ornamented with a shaded handkerchief; which is formed in a full tuft on the left side, and brought under the chin. A high ruff, of French lace, with scalloped edge, brought to a point in the centre of the bosom. A rich cord and acorn tassel, confining the coat round the waist, and tied in front with long ends. The under dress of plain muslin, or French cambric. Shoes of brown velvet, and gloves of Limerick kid.

System of Pillage practised by the French Armies.

[From the Monthly Magazine.]

To the Editor,

Sir,

THE following information has been communicated by a person of the greatest respectability, lately arrived from the continent. Perhaps it may be acceptable to some of your readers.

VERUS.

"It was on the 18th of October, of last year, when I had the first opportunity of seeing any French troops. The corps of Prince Bernadotte was then on its march to Halle, and passed the night *(bivaqua)* in the vicinity of the town of ——. I had often heard and read the French word *bivaquer*, or *bivouaquer*, without attaching any other idea to it, than that of a number of tents, watch-fires, and groups of soldiers waiting for the enemy; but now I was enabled to undeceive myself. There were at least thirty thousand men, occupying a German square mile, who dined and took up their quarters in the open air. No preparations whatever had been made for them, nor had they any baggage. They made no requisitions during day-light, and we should have remained ignorant of their being so near us, had not Prince Bernadotte and his staff entered the town for the night. But when it grew dusk, we were alarmed with the general tumult of soldiers, rushing in on all sides, and taking away any provisions, cattle, wine, brandy, beer, &c. which they could find. Next they seized all the firewood, and every piece of furniture that might serve in its stead; likewise all beds, bolsters, &c. to sleep upon, and whatever was required for their horses. All this they carried off either themselves, or forced the poor inhabitants to carry it after them, into the fields. What they did not actually use was destroyed. It will be readily imagined that such violent proceedings could not take place without much ill-treatment; many persons lost their

lives either from immediate ill-usage, or in consequence of the fright; those of the latter description were the most numerous. Nor was that all. They began afterwards to search for money and valuables.

"It is well known that the French soldiers have a standing permission in an enemy's country, to take any provisions or any money they can get at: hence they have not the least idea that in plundering they commit an act of injustice. They rather consider it as part of their duty, and proceed in the most systematic manner. Each has his respective task allotted to him. Some carry provisions, others fuel and bedding; and others again look for hidden treasure, or plate, and jewels. In this latter art they are so expert, that the common people in the countries destroyed by these locusts, consider their skill in finding out what was carefully hidden, as the effect of sorcery; and the better-informed classes suspect collusion and treachery. But the French themselves are anxious to exculpate persons thus wrongfully suspected, by alleging their own superior dexterity in plundering, which, from long experience and practice, they have reduced to a system.

"Usually a competent number of them unite, for the purpose of searching a house for hidden treasure. First of all they break open, from behind, all chests and half-chests of drawers, piano-fortes, trunks, &c. which not only saves time, but immediately lays open any secret drawers, that otherwise might have escaped discovery. After which they repair to the cellars, where they rummage all heaps of potatoes, apples, &c. and stores of any kind. If they be unsuccessful, they carefully look about whether there is any new wall in the cellar, behind which valuables might have been concealed. If any part of the ground appear uneven, it is dug up immediately; but when that even is not the case, they ascertain by the following experiment whether the ground or flooring of the cellar has recently been dug up. They cast water upon different places, and observe whether it be absorbed in one place quicker than in another; wherever that happens they break up the ground. It may easily be conceived that these laborious and tedious operations do not exclude those which are easier, such as searching granaries, barns, wells, heaps of manure, &c. and ripping up feather-beds. Indeed, so very successful are they in their infernal arts of systematic plunder, that no instance is known of their having failed to discover any thing that had been hidden previous to their arrival. We are not to imagine that any place is held sacred by them. During their last campaign in the north of Germany, they regularly plundered churches and church-yards in all little towns and villages.

" The following happened to a friend of the narrator:—Having been plundered of every thing except the clothes he had on, four soldiers entered his despoiled house, demanding money. He could give them nothing; but they not crediting his assertion, began a new search, and forced him to accompany them. During this transaction, one of them kept his eyes fixed on the master of the house, in order to discover, from any change in his countenance, where money might be concealed, while the three others were with their sabres thrusting and knocking against ceilings walls, floors, &c. for the purpose of judging by the sound whether they had any chance. Whenever the unfortunate man from some cause or other turned pale or red, his observer encouraged the rest to persevere in their endeavours on that particular spot, as the man had manifested uneasiness.

" Nothing is so horrid as the personal searchings. No one is exempt from them. They sometimes add the most cruel insults to their robberies. A young woman at Eckartsborge, deformed in her person and poor, was suspected by them to have an artificial high shoulder, and to have concealed in it some valuable property. On finding it, however, a natural defect, they most unmercifully and inhumanly beat the unfortunate girl.

" It would be unfair to say that such scenes are approved of by all officers in the French army. The truth is, they cannot prevent them but in their own rooms; and even there not without difficulty. Some French officers told the narrator, that, in order to keep off the horrors of depredation from the rooms inhabited by themselves, some of their number were obliged to stand before them all night with their swords drawn. Thus, indeed, they accomplished their object, but, perhaps, at the peril of their lives, as the disappointed robbers would wait for the confusion of the next battle, in order to take vengeance on such officers as had deprived them of some of their perquisites.

" But how is it possible that the French soldiers should act otherwise, when it is a fact, that all small towns and all villages in hostile countries, are given up to them for plunder from necessity! During the war they receive no pay, but are referred to the inhabitants of the countries in which they may happen to be. Previous to the breaking out of the war last year (1806), they had received no pay for the space of four months! They therefore will often exclaim, ' Unless we plunder, we must starve, and go naked; our officers, too, must either plunder themselves, or be supplied by us with plunder; for they have nothing neither.' This is absolutely the fact. The very chiefs of French armies receive no pay in time of war; to make themselves amends for which, they fix on some city, which they

they drain by requisitions, the confiscation of English merchandize, &c. Their extortions amount frequently to incredible sums. Moreover, it is a matter of course for every French general to carry off the plate, the table-linen, the sheets, &c. from every house where he sets up his quarters. The last-mentioned objects, in common with horses and carriages, are considered as the exclusive property of officers of rank, who seize them every where.

"To accommodate the private soldier, every army is followed by an execrable sort of men, called *traineurs*, who are the carriers of the pillaged property, which they buy from the soldiers for a mere trifle. But their waggons contain, besides, plunder of their own; for after the regular pillage, these miscreants glean from the robbed houses such effects as the troops cannot conveniently take off. They also make plundering excursions to those villages that lie out of the main road, and to visit which would be productive of too great delay to the troops."

Inscription, ordered to be written on a Tablet, and placed in the Bath and West of England Agricultural Society's Room, under the Picture of the late Mr. Davis, of Longleat.

TO THE
highly-merited honour
of that most useful
benefactor and ornament of his country,
THOMAS DAVIS,
of Longleat and Horningsham,
in the county of Wilts, gentleman;
who had been an invaluable member of
The Bath and West of England Society,
from its original institution.
A man, in whom very superior talents,
and the
most rare attainments of useful and scientific knowledge,
were combined with the most ardent exertion;
and
the most luminous faculty of general communication,
with the most active benevolence, and
suavity of manners:
all which qualities were equalled only by his
incorruptible integrity!
He departed this life, universally regretted,
on the 10th day of November;
and the annual meeting of the said society,

on

on the 1st day of December following,
by a warm and unanimous vote, decreed
THIS TABLET
to signalise his name,
and
to perpetuate their remembrance of
his virtues.
Anno 1807.

A SINGULAR SERMON,

By the Rev. Mr. Hyberdin, which he made at the Request of certain Thieves, who robbed him on a Hill, in Hampshire, in their Presence, and at that Instant.

[Extracted from the Cottonian Library, before the Fire which happened at Ashburnham-House, in 1731.]

I Greatly marvel that any man will dispraise thieving, and think that the doers thereof are worthy of death, considering it as a thing that cometh near unto virtue, being used in all countries, and commanded and allowed by God himself; the which thing I cannot compendiously shew unto you at so short a warning, and on so sharp an occasion. I must desire you, *gentle audience of thieves*, to take in good part what at this time cometh into my mind; not doubting but that you, through your good knowledge, are able to add much more unto it than this which I shall now offer unto you.

First—Fortitude and stoutness of courage, and also boldness of mind, is commended of some men to be a virtue: which being granted, who is there then that will not judge thieves to be virtuous?—For they are of all men the most stout and hardy, and most void of fear; for thieving is a thing usual among all men; for not only you that are here present, but also many others in divers places, both men, women, and children, rich and poor, are daily of the faculty, as the hangmen of Newgate can testify; and that it is allowed of by God himself, is evident from scripture; for if you examine the whole course of the Bible, you will find that thieves have been beloved of God; for Jacob, when he came out of Mesopotamia, did steal his uncle Laban's kids:—The same Jacob also stole his brother Esau's blessing; and yet God said, "I have chose Jacob, and refused Esau." The children of Israel, when they came out of Egypt, did steal the Egyptians' jewels of silver, and jewels of gold, as God commanded them to do. David, in the days of Abiather, the high priest, came into the temple, and stole the hallowed bread; and yet God said, "David is a man after

mine own heart." Christ himself, when he was here on earth, did take an ass and a colt that was none of his; and yet God said, "This is my beloved son, in whom I am well pleased." Thus you see God delighted in thieves. But most of all I marvel that men can dispraise you thieves, whereas in many points you be like unto Christ himself; for Christ had no dwelling-place, no more have you; Christ went from town to town, and so do you; Christ at length was caught, and so will you; he went down into Hell, and so will you. In this you differ from him; for he arose, and went into Heaven. So you will never do without God's great mercy, which God grant you. To whom, with the father, son, and holy ghost, be all honour and glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

[The sermon being ended, struck with remorse, they returned the money.]

ANECDOTES *of* ADMIRAL SINIAVIN.

THE Russian admiral, Siniavin, now at the Tagus, is of one of the first families in Russia. About the year 1783, being then a youth, he was sent to England, by the Russian court, who obtained permission from the British government for his being admitted a volunteer in our navy. He was accordingly, by order of the lords of the admiralty, received on board the Leander, of 50 guns, then destined for the Halifax station, in America, where he served about three years. He was afterwards employed, for nearly the same time, in the Mediterranean, as a volunteer midshipman, on board the Pearl frigate, then commanded by the late Hon. Seymour Finch, brother to the earl of Aylesford, which ship he quitted at Smyrna, in 1789, in order to render to his own country the benefit of that knowledge and experience he had acquired from us, Russia being then engaged in a war with the Turks, against whom he seemed, by nature, to be a zealous adversary.

During the last war he served, and held the rank of a post captain in the Russian navy, and was one of their fleet that wintered in the Medway; but on that fleet being ordered home, and the Emperor Paul entering into the views of Bonaparte, he retired, and continued in retirement until Russia again made common cause with this country.

RUSSIAN MINES.

THE gold mines of Russia afford 42,675 pounds weight of that metal annually; the silver mines 1,564,750 pounds, and the copper mines 7,000,000 pounds. The value of the iron annually exported from Russia is about 1,200,000 sterling.

METHODS *of* COMPUTING TIME.

THE first watch was brought as a present to Charlemagne, from Abdella, king of Persia, by two monks of Jerusalem, in the year 800.

"Among other presents (says Eginhart) was an horologe of brass, wonderfully constructed by some mechanical artifice; in which were twelve little brazen balls, which at the close of each hour dropped on a sort of bell underneath, and sounded the end of the hour. Here were also twelve figures of horsemen, who, when the twelve hours were completed, issued out at twelve windows, and returning again shut the windows after them."

It is to be remembered, that Eginhart was an eye-witness of what is here described; and that he was an abbot, a skilful architect, and very learned in the sciences.

Our Alfred, at this very time, invented a simple and ingenious method of computing time. He caused six wax tapers to be made, each twelve inches long; on these he ordered the inches to be regularly notched; and having found that one of them burned just four hours, he committed the care of them to the keepers of his chapel, who from time to time gave due notice how the hours went. But as in windy weather the candles were more wasted, to remedy this inconvenience he invented lanthorns, there being no glass to be met with in any part of his dominions.

Time-pieces may be considered as having a moral tendency. Dr. Franklin says, time is money; and true it is, that to improve time carefully is one of the strongest proofs of wisdom and prudence.

Answer, by Quill, of Aveton Gifford, to the Cornish Miner's Question, inserted June 22.

LET $x+e$ = greater number
$x-e$ = lesser number

$2x$ = their sum = 82, and x = 41

and $x+e \times x-e = x^2-e-^2$ = their product = 1456; hence $e^2 = x^2$ — their product = 1681 — 1456 = 225; therefore e = 15: so the numbers are, 56 the greater, 26 the less.

☞ Walter, of the Plymouth volunteers; R. Maffett, and a carpenter, of Plymouth; W. Backhouse, and B. Backhouse, of Evercreech; Tristram Bath, of Wendron; T. Gill, officer of excise near Wells; and J. Whitnell, of Street.

Answer, by W. D. of Bristol, to J. Ryan's Rebus, inserted October 12.

TH' UMBRELLA doth your whole explain,
Which oft proves useful in the rain.

† Similar answers have been received from J. Trood, of Bridgwater; an officer of the customs; R. Loosemore, of Tiverton; G. A. F. Arden, and S. D. of South Petherton; J. A. Dyer, of Taunton; J. Whitnell, of Street; H. Ellis, of Exeter; T. Coumbe, and J. Colley, of St. German's; Mary Symons, of Honiknowl-house; W. T. Dineck, of St. Budeaux; and Philip Codd, of Plymouth.

Answer, by R. M. Giffard, of Castle Cary Academy, to R. Loosemore's Rebus, inserted October 19.

BREAD FRUIT TREES come from distant climes,
Which rightly answers to your rhymes.

§‡§ A similar answer has been received from H. Ellis, of Exeter; J. Vellenoweth, near Helston; G. A. F. Arden, and S. D. of South Petherton; W. D. of Bristol; J. Colley, of St. Domlnick; J. Horsey, S. Paull, and W. King, of Castle Cary academy; and T. Gill, an officer of excise near Wells.

A REBUS, *by J. Joyce, of Tiverton.*

A Fashionable thing you first must find;
The lord of the creation call to mind;
A num'ral, lastly, chuse, I now request,
Or else, a snare, if you approve it best;
Transpose these parts, and right together frame,
A grand diversion you will doubtless name,
Which formerly was very often taken,
Tho' at this time 'tis pretty much forsaken.

A CHARADE, *by J. Whitnell, of Street.*

WHEN winter holds tyrannic sway,
My first is often found;
Part of a liquid next display,
My second to expound:
Cement these parts, ye bards of fame,
In order right and true,
And what's amidst fair Flora's train
My whole will bring to view.

A CHARADE, *by H. Ellis, of Exeter.*

MY first doth loud to battle call,
And wakes th' indignant sons of Mars;
The warriors brave and cowards fall
Victims alike of cruel wars.
But when's all tranquil and serene,
And noisy brawls and discords cease;
When nature heightens all the scene,
The shepherd tunes my next in peace.
In yonder mead, where maidens dance,
And trip along the verdant green,
With festive song, my whole, perchance,
May then with pleasure there be seen.

POETRY.

For the WEEKLY ENTERTAINER.

The RISING SUN.

THOU radiant orb of fountain light,
On thee I gaze with rapturous eyes,
When thou arisest in thy might
To run the circuit of the skies.

At sight of thee the flow'rs again
Their eve-clad petals all unfold;
A lovely and enchanting train,
Or dipt in purple, white, or gold.

Such are the beams of the bright sun of truth
In the gay morn of all-ingenuous youth,
Transcendently benign!
But soon, how soon! the vexing cares of life,
In all their rage, let loose their gloomy strife,
Nor suffer them to shine.

Trent. B. A

The WIDOW.

By Mr. MONTGOMERY.

AH! who is she that sits and weeps,
And gazes on the narrow mound?
In that fresh grave her true-love sleeps;
Her heart lies with him in the ground:
She heeds not, while her babe, at play,
Plucks the frail flowers, that gaily bloom,
And casts them, as they fade, away,
In garlands on its father's tomb:
Unconscious where its father lies,
"Sweets to the sweet!" the prattler cries:
Ah! then she starts, looks up, her eyes o'erflow
With all a mother's love, and all a widow's woe!

Again she turns away her head,
Nor marks her infant's sportive air,
Its cherub cheeks all rosy red,
Its sweet blue eyes, and yellow hair;
Silent she turns away her head,
Nor dares behold that happy face,
Where smile the features of the dead
In lineaments of fairy grace:
In which at once, with transport wild,
She sees her husband and her child;
Ah! then her bosom burns, her eyes o'erflow
With all a mother's love, and all a widow's woe.

And still I find her sitting here,
Tho' dark October frowns on all:
And from the lime-trees rustling near
The scatter'd leaves around her fall;

Oh!

Oh! then it charms her inmost soul.
It suits the sadness of her mind,
To watch the clouds of autumn roll,
And listen to the evening wind;
In every shadow, every blast,
The spirits of enjoyments past,
She sees, she hears; ah! then her eyes o'erflow
Not with a mother's love, but with a widow's woe.

The peasant dreads the driving storm,
Yet pauses as he hastens by,
Views the pale ruin of her form,
The desolation of her eye;
Beholds her babe for shelter creep
Behind the grave stone's dreary shade,
Where all its father's wishes sleep,
And all its mother's hopes are laid;
Remembering then his own heart's joy,
A rosy wife, a blooming boy!
"Oh! God!" he sighs, "when I am thus laid low,
"Must my poor partner feel a widow'd mother's woe!"

He gently stretches out his arm,
And calls the babe in accents mild;
The mother shrieks, with strange alarm,
And snatches up her weeping child:
She thought that voice of tender tone,
Those accents soft, endearing, kind,
Came from beneath the hollow stone!
He marks the wandering of her mind,
And musing on his happier lot,
Seeks the warm comforts of his cot!
He meets his wife! Ah! then his eyes o'erflow;
She feels a mother's love, nor dreads a widow's woe!

The storm retires; and hark! the bird,
The lonely bird of autumn's reign,
From yonder waving elm is heard,
Oh! what a mild and simple strain!
See the delighted mourner start,
While Robin Redbreast's evening song
Pours all its sweetness thro' her heart,
And soothes her as it trills along:
Then gleams her eye: her fancy hears
The warbled music of the spheres;
She clasps her babe: she feels her bosom glow,
And in the mother's love forgets the widow's woe.

Go to thine home, forsaken fair!
Go to thy solitary home:
Thou lovely pilgrim! in despair,
To thy saint's shrine no longer roam:
He rests not here:—thy SOUL'S DELIGHT
Attends where'er thy footsteps tread;
He watches in the depth of night,
A guardian angel round thy bed.
And still a father, fondly kind,
Loves the dear pledge he left behind;
Behold that pledge! then cease thy tears to flow,
And in the mother's love forget the widow's woe!

EPITAPH

A Man is born, alas! and what is man?
A scuttle-full of dust, a breath, a span;
A vale of fears, a vessel ton'd with breath,
By sickness broach'd, and then drawn off by death.